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14 Nov. 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Chief, Development Projects Division
THROUGH : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division
SUBJECT : Possible Briefing of Members of Congress on
Project CORONA

1. The President's Scientific Advisor has asked me whether it might not be wise to brief a few selected members of Congress on the results of CORONA so as to deepen their understanding of intelligence estimates which have an important bearing on the military budget and more broadly on Defense policy. In this connection he asked me what members of Congress were already knowledgeable of it through participation in CIA sub-committees.

2. I would appreciate it if you would obtain a list of knowledgeable members of Congress. Part of this may be available in your Division's security files but I believe John Warner should also be consulted and possibly Kirkpatrick since they may remember briefings of members of Congress that have not been properly recorded by Security.

3. My own tentative reaction to the question was affirmative provided we brief only Congressmen who could be counted upon to be reasonably discreet and provided we are allowed to do the briefing under circumstances that the need for security could be emphasized upon them. Obviously this action would require Presidential concurrence but it should not be referred to the President until our views as determined by the DCI have been established and made known.

[redacted]

B
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

DD/P:RMB: [redacted]

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

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